

Application Serial No. 10/686,373
Amendment dated September 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 14, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A casket comprising:
 - a shell having a pair of opposed side walls and a pair of opposed end walls, said walls defining an upper edge of said shell;
 - a lid closeable upon said edge of said shell; and
 - a cover removably securable to said shell and concealing said edge when said lid is open, said cover being at least semi-rigid, said cover adapted to be removed from said shell edge for proper closing of said lid on said shell edge.
2. (Original) The casket of claim 1 wherein said cover conceals only said edge of said shell.
3. (Original) The casket of claim 1 wherein said casket is fabricated of wood.

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4. (Original) The casket of claim 1 wherein said casket is fabricated of metal.

5. (Currently Amended) A casket comprising:
a shell having a pair of opposed side walls and a pair of opposed end
walls, said walls defining an upper edge of said shell;
a lid closeable upon said edge of said shell; and
a cover removably securable to said shell and concealing said edge when
said lid is open, said cover being at least semi-rigid;
wherein said casket is fabricated of metal;

[The casket of claim 4] wherein said shell edge carries a rubber gasket for sealing between said shell and lid, and wherein said cover conceals said gasket.

6. (Original) The casket of claim 1 wherein said semi-rigid cover is fabricated from a plastic.

7. (Original) The casket of claim 6 wherein said plastic cover is molded.

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8. (Original) The casket of claim 6 wherein said plastic cover is extruded.
9. (Original) The casket of claim 1 wherein said semi-rigid cover is fabricated from cardboard.
10. (Currently Amended) A casket comprising:
a shell having a pair of opposed side walls and a pair of opposed end walls, said walls defining an upper edge of said shell;
a lid closeable upon said edge of said shell; and
a cover removably securable to said shell and concealing said edge when said lid is open, said cover being at least semi-rigid;
wherein said semi-rigid cover is fabricated from cardboard;
[The casket of claim 9] wherein said cardboard cover is covered with decorative fabric.
11. (Currently Amended) A casket comprising:
a shell having a pair of opposed side walls and a pair of opposed end walls, said walls defining an upper edge of said shell;

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a lid closeable upon said edge of said shell; and

a cover removably securable to said shell and concealing said edge when
said lid is open, said cover being at least semi-rigid;

wherein said semi-rigid cover is fabricated from cardboard;

[The casket of claim 9] wherein said cardboard cover is painted.

12. (Currently Amended) A casket comprising:

a shell having a pair of opposed side walls and a pair of opposed end
walls, said walls defining an upper edge of said shell;

a lid closeable upon said edge of said shell; and

a cover removably securable to said shell and concealing said edge when
said lid is open, said cover being at least semi-rigid;

wherein said semi-rigid cover is fabricated from cardboard;

[The casket of claim 9] wherein said cardboard cover is printed with
decorative surface ornamentation.

13. (Original) The casket of claim 1 wherein said semi-rigid cover is
fabricated from wood.

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14. (Original) The casket of claim 1 wherein said semi-rigid cover is fabricated from metal.

15. (Original) The casket of claim 1 further including means for removably securing said cover to said shell.

16. (Original) The casket of claim 15 wherein said means comprises a press-fit connection between said cover and said shell edge, said cover having sufficient resilience and being configured such that said cover snaps onto said shell edge.

17. (Original) The casket of claim 15 wherein said means comprises stud and aperture connections, one of said shell edge and lid carrying studs and the other of said shell edge and lid having aperture therein which accept said studs.

18. (Original) The casket of claim 15 wherein said means comprises double-sided tape.

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19. (Original) The casket of claim 15 wherein said means comprises a hook and loop fastener.

20. (Currently Amended) A casket comprising:
a shell having a pair of opposed side walls and a pair of opposed end
walls, said walls defining an upper edge of said shell;
a lid closeable upon said edge of said shell; and
a cover removably securable to said shell and concealing said edge when
said lid is open, said cover being at least semi-rigid;

[The casket of claim 1] wherein said cover includes an engraveable plate mounted thereon.

21. (Currently Amended) A casket comprising:
a shell having a pair of opposed side walls and a pair of opposed end
walls, said walls defining an upper edge of said shell;
a lid closeable upon said edge of said shell; and
a cover removably securable to said shell and concealing said edge when
said lid is open, said cover being at least semi-rigid;

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[The casket of claim 1] wherein said cover is engraved with an inscription
memorializing the deceased.